

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Masanori NAKAMUURA et al.

Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned

Application No.: New application

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Filed: December 7, 2001

Attorney Dkt. No.: 103120-00028

For: A PLANT FOR PRODUCING A METAL BAND WITH PROTECTION COATING

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: December 7, 2001

Sir:

Prior to initial examination of the application, please amend the above-identified application as follows (a marked-up version is attached hereto):

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph on page 10, beginning at line 5 with the following paragraph:

It appears therefore that the band runs in each coating section, respectively metal B and application C, while following a running path comprising at least two vertical branches connected by a horizontal branch. Each coating section B, C is therefore inscribed in a rectangular block having two vertical lateral sides perpendicular to the general horizontal running direction of the band and whose height depends on the time necessary, on the one hand to the solidification of the zinc and, on the other hand, to the drying of the paint, taking into account the running speed. When two coats of paint are necessary, it is possible, as indicated above, to reduce the height of the section while folding the running path into two parallel columns.